

Appln No. 10/047,127

Amdt date November 13, 2003

Reply to Office action of August 13, 2003

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 3 illustrates a computer accessory for the computer system. Computer accessory 70 is any external hardware capable of controlling television 30, VCR 34 and/or VCR 36. In the preferred embodiment, computer accessory 70 is connected to computer 12 through available serial, parallel or other port 23. Clock 72, located within computer ~~accessory~~ accessory 70 in the preferred embodiment, maintains current time. Battery 74 provides a continuous supply of power when the computer accessory's regular available power is not present. Memory 76 contains the key parameters needed for recording and/or tuning to a selected television program. These parameters include the date of the program, the start time for the program, the end time for the program, the television channel providing the program, and which peripheral device shall be addressed for recording or viewing the program.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the components of both computer accessory 70 and VCR connector 90 are located inside computer 12. Therefore, RF transmitter 78 and RF receiver 94 are not required. Computer 12 most likely has an internal battery and clock provided, so battery 74 and clock 74 may not be needed. Memory 76 can be provided by hard drive 14. Processor 80 may not be needed because processor 16 can perform its functions. In this embodiment, IR driver 96 and IR emitter

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 3 illustrates a computer accessory for the computer system. Computer accessory 70 is any external hardware capable of controlling television 30, VCR 34 and/or VCR 36. In the preferred embodiment, computer accessory 70 is connected to computer 12 through available serial, parallel or other port 23. Clock 72, located within computer ~~accessary~~ accessory 70 in the preferred embodiment, maintains current time. Battery 74 provides a continuous supply of power when the computer accessory's regular available power is not present. Memory 76 contains the key parameters needed for recording and/or tuning to a selected television program. These parameters include the date of the program, the start time for the program, the end time for the program, the television channel providing the program, and which peripheral device shall be addressed for recording or viewing the program.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the components of both computer accessory 70 and VCR connector 90 are located inside computer 12. Therefore, RF transmitter 78 and RF receiver 94 are not required. Computer 12 most likely has an internal battery and clock provided, so battery 74 and clock 74 may not be needed. Memory 76 can be provided by hard drive 14. Processor 80 may not be needed because processor 16 can perform its functions. In this embodiment, IR driver 96 and IR emitter

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98 provide the tuning and recording parameters to television 32 and VCRs 34 and 36 (see Fig. 1 for placement of IR driver 96 and IR emitter 98 within computer 12). Similarly, if computer 12 contains television/video board 19 in this arrangement, a selected television program can be viewed on computer screen 50. Additionally, a selected television program can be stored within computer 12 in a memory or mass storage device (e.g., hard drive 14, disk or tape). Thus, no need would exist for the transmission of parameters needed for automatic tuning and automatic, unattended recording, and the associated IR devices 96 and 98 would not be present. Finally computer 12, television system 30, VCR ~~37~~ 34 and all additional electronic devices could be on a home network. In this arrangement, no transmitters or internal receivers would be necessary.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 37 through page 18, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In another embodiment, the database with the television schedule information is located in memory 406 within television 400. Controller 404 is used to obtain the data from memory 406 so that it can be displayed on television 400. Alternatively, the database with the television schedule information could be located in memory 426 (within set-top box 420) or in memory 436 (within VCR 430). Controller 424 or controller ~~431~~ 434 would be used to obtain the data which would then be sent to television 400 for display via line 410 or line 450. Therefore, the technology that enables the television schedule information to be provided from a database to a television for display is not

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specific to any given data system. In summary, this technology can be resident in the user's set-top box 420, television 400, VCR 430, personal computer or the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In one embodiment, the computer network 360 includes a plurality of servers 350 and a database 370. The database 370 includes television schedule information, which may be retrieved and viewed on PCTV 362. Servers 350 represent file servers having files, databases or the like. In a representative embodiment, the computer network is the World Wide Web and each server 350 is set up as a network file server addressable by a unique address. For example, the servers 350 may be configured to follow a common network protocol such as the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), and the Internet Protocol (IP) (commonly referred to collectively as TCP/IP), and may be assigned a unique IP address or internet domain name. For example, the servers may be assigned the domain name "invoice.com". The servers 350 may also have some form of server software installed to permit the system to function as an internet graphics server. For example, the servers 350 may be configured with HyperText Transport Protocol (HTTP) server software to permit the system to function as an internet "world wide web" (WWW) server. In this embodiment, PCTV 362 may access servers 350 via the WWW using WWW compatible software by indicating the system's uniform resource locator address, for example: "HTTP://www.invoice.com".

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 12-17 illustrate a sample television schedule system 700 with a grid guide, and methods for utilizing the television schedule system with the contextual linking system and method of the present invention. Of course, it should be recognized that the invention is not limited to the specific television schedule system shown in Figures 12-17. For example, other suitable television schedule systems are described in the user manuals "Using Starsight 2", "Starsight Interactive Television Program Guide, Phase III", and "Starsight Interactive Television Program Guide, Phase IV", which are attached to this application as Appendices A, B, and C, respectively, or commonly assigned U.S. Patent Nos. 5,353,121, 5,479,266, the complete disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference. The television schedule system 700 shown in Figs. 12-17, however, is particularly advantageous with the contextual linking system of the present invention as it enables the viewer to quickly and efficiently browse through the television schedule, and to interact with a wide range of services that are related to the programs in the television schedule.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 12A, program guide 702 includes a number of other information areas. For example, program guide 702 includes a mode menu area 712 that indicates the currently active mode (i.e., program guide 702) and allows the viewer to

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pull down a mode menu ~~714~~ (see FIG. ~~13A~~ 15A). Program guide 702 also includes a date area 716 that indicates the date reflected in program matrix 706 and allows the viewer to pull down a date submenu ~~718~~ to change the date. In other submodes, the submenu will display options for ordering or displaying lists that are appropriately related to the submode. A proportional scroll bar 720 located to the left of program matrix 706 is visually proportional to the total information in program matrix 706 to provide visual feedback as the user vertically scrolls through matrix 706. In addition, scroll bar 720 may be used for large-scale movement through hundreds of channels/sources by navigating to bar 720 and then vertically moving bar 720. An exit area 722 allows the viewer to immediately exit back to the television by navigating to exit area 722 and clicking on the remote control device. A program area 726 depicts the currently tuned program and a preview window area 728 can be used for all types of promotional, descriptive, or contextual video or graphics, such as a short preview of the show that is currently being highlighted in show matrix 706. Preview window area 728 may also be interactional similar to the other areas of guide 702.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 33 through page 32, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGS. 13A-13C illustrate a method of accessing program guide 702 from a currently tuned program and browsing through other currently tuned programs with remote control device 2. As shown in FIG. 13A, the viewer is watching a television show on a

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display screen ~~732~~ 782, such as a Monday Night Football game featuring the Washington Redskins versus the Minnesota Vikings. Clicking on the remote control device automatically causes a Program InfoMenu 730 to pop up on a portion of the television screen ~~732~~ 782 (see FIG. 13B). Program InfoMenu 730 may allow the viewer to obtain more information about the currently tuned program, move to program guide 702, move to contextual linked services (discussed below), or exit InfoMenu 730 back to the television show. The viewer may vertically scroll through these options upwards or downwards, and select one of the options. For example, clicking on the "Go to program guide" section immediately transfers the viewer to the program guide, as shown in FIG. 12A. To browse other currently tuned programs, the viewer employs suitable channel controls or other input commands on the remote control device (not shown). As shown in FIG. 13C, the viewer may browse through other information menus while viewing the currently tuned program.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 35 through page 35, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Although the foregoing invention has been described in detail for purposes of clarity, it will be obvious that certain modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims. For example, the viewer can automatically tune to a desired program or can select different programs for automatic recording and/or retrieval and digital storage. For more information on automatic tuning and automatic recording, see U.S. Patent No. B1 4,706,121 and ~~U.S. Patent Application No.~~

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~~08/423,411~~; this patent ~~and this patent application are~~ is, like
the present patent application, assigned to Starsight Telecast,
Inc. U.S. Patent No. B1 4,706,121 ~~and U.S. Patent Application~~
~~No. 08/423,411~~ are is hereby incorporated by reference in ~~their~~
its entirety for all purposes.